

ROBIN MARTIN: Good afternoon. Thank you for this speaking opportunity. My name is Robin Martin, and I am a Sierra Club member, Pittsburgh native, and graduated environmental biology student at Chatham University. I'm requesting the BLM to conduct a thorough review on new coal leases that acknowledges the scientist consensus that a vast majority of unmined coal must remain in the ground to circumvent most devastating effects of climate disruption. Continuing to issue new coal leases would be a direct contradiction to the United States' commitment to climate resolutions made during the Paris Climate Agreement to curb greenhouse gas emissions in order to achieve global temperature rise levels below 2 degrees Celsius, or 1.5 if we are really motivated. The United States is known for our resourcefulness, and we have a chance to be a world leader in energy innovation by phasing out coal and investing in alternative energies that preserve the health of the land and the American people. As a daughter from a union family that includes coal miners who have lost their economic viability after the coal land has dried up, and a wife who is afraid to start a family due to environmental dangers of living within five miles of Clarion Coke Works, I implore the BLM to consider utilizing the land for cleaner, more sustainable energy options that provide environmental and economic opportunities for future generations. We did not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children. Thank you so much for your time and your dedication to our nation's land and energy needs.